

ECOCERT CANADA



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Equivalency Canada-Europe

Published on June 20 2011 and coming into effect on June 28th, the European Commission has added Canada to its equivalency list. Organic food products and livestock feed made in Canada with COS certified ingredients grown in Canada will be allowed to enter the EU market without the need for an import authorization. Canadian processors will also be able to use organic ingredients coming from EU and add them to their COS certified products.

We are still waiting for information regarding the impact of this change on finished products containing organic ingredients from different origins. We will inform you as soon as possible.

TOOLBOX



Equivalency Canada-USA

As a member of the *Filière Biologique du Québec*, Ms France Gravel had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Miles Mc Evoy (NOP) and Mr. Michel Saurmur (COO) to discuss the impact of the US-Canada equivalency agreement, especially for the maple syrup sector. Ecocert will follow up on these discussions about the harmonization of the standards

REGULATIONS

Brazil

Ecocert Canada can offer certification according to the new Brazilian Regulation that was implemented on January 2011 and which is now mandatory to enter that market. Contact us to learn more.



Changes to the Quebec standard: Exemptions

The "*Regulations on the review of applications for the recognition of claims*" have recently been changed. Now only the exceptions provided for in the standard may be granted by a certification body.



Here is a table showing the main exceptions provided for in the standard.

Stan-	Exemption
3.1.1	Permission to shorten the conversion time before the first harvest eligible for the certification of 36 months.
5.4.4	Use of non-compliant manure / slurry
6.1.2-c	Permission to keep 6-12 month old heifers in the stable, temporary confinement of heifers because of soil conditions in pastures.
6.2.3	Authorization of de-worming treatment with conventional products
6.3.2	Authorization to purchase non-organic hay without prohibited inputs for animal feed
6.3.9	Permission to use non-organic straw without prohibited inputs as bedding.

We will forward other relevant applications to the CARTV for review.



End of the Stream of Commerce policy

As of June 30th 2011 all products sold on inter-provincial Canadian markets must be certified according to the COS.

Some standards are still being worked on (either by the Interpretation Committee or the CGSB Organic Agricultural Committee) therefore exemptions could be granted while we are waiting for the result of these works.

IN THE FIELD

Inspector's training.

The certification team offered an update training to all inspectors in May and June. Ontario inspectors were lucky to hear about "animal welfare" from Mr Laurence Andres of Harmony Organics and Mr Ted Zettel of Organic Meadows. A very special thanks to these experienced trainers.

The "animal welfare" training will be extended to all inspectors in the coming months.